

I want you to know that I find Pappas Telecasting Companies' 'donation' of \$325,000 in airtime to Republican candidates in certain areas offensive. It is yet another example of a powerful media group abusing its privileged access to the public airwaves.

Localism is not served when a corporate headquarters decides to provide one side in local elections a louder voice than others. During election season, local audiences should be offered genuine debate -- not disingenuous offers to "purchase" an equal amount of response time.

Pappas uses the public airwaves free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Pappas' actions are legally questionable and cast doubt on whether Pappas truly intends to serve the public interest. Their actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Further, they show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than just a returned postcard. I have benefited from being able to run for public office in an area where the media was balanced and both sides could complain about their actions. This type of action will discourage good candidates from running in the future because they will not be on a level playing field. Thank you.